THE GENERIC PLACEMENT OF *PROSOPIS? ALLODAPE? MUSTELA* VACHAL, 1895 (HYMENOPTERA: APOIDEA)[1]

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ABSTRACT: *Prosopis? Allodape? mustela* Vachal is a Burmese species of *Hylaeus* known with certainty only from the type female. It is redescribed and figured from the type; the subgeneric placement is uncertain, but seems nearest to the Australian subgenus *Prosopisteron.*

Vachal (1895) described a new species of bee as '*Prosopis*? *Allodape*? *mustela*." The single female specimen was from Carin Cheba, collected in December, 1888, by Leonardo Fea. Bingham (1897) placed this species in *Prosopis* and may have seen the type and cited it from "Karen Hills, Burma; Tenasserim". The species has remained unknown since then, although Meade-Waldo (1923) listed it in *Hylaeus.*

The type specimen is in the collections of the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Genova, Italy. It was loaned to Dr. C.D. Michener in 1986 in connection with his studies of the allodapine bees. Dr. Michener, in turn, sent the type to me because it is a species of *Hylaeus*, not an allodapine. The type remains the only known specimen. I have redescribed it here in the hope that the species might be recognized in the future. Vachal's original description is inadequate.

Hylaeus (?Prosopisteron) mustela (Vachal)

Figs. 1, 2

Prosopis ? *Allodape* ? *mustela* Vachal, 1895:446; ♀.
Prosopis mustela: Bingham, 1897:411; ♀.
Hylaeus mustela: Meade-Waldo, 1923:24.

Female Holotype. Measurements (mm): head width 1.19; head length 1.09; total length 4.5.

Head (Fig. 1) width 1.09 times head length; inner eye margins moderately convergent below, upper interocular distance 1.5 times lower interocular distance; head thick in profile (Fig. 2). Clypeal width about 1.2 times clypeal length, punctures fine (0.02-0.03 mm diam.), separated by 1.0-2.5 diameters, surface moderately shiny and distinctly tessellate. Supraclypeal area more sharply tessellate, duller, with scattered punctures. Frontal shield width about 1.35 times greatest length. Frons a little duller than clypeus, punctures averaging finer (0.02-0.21 mm diam), separated by 0.5-1.0 diameters, becoming scattered and slightly larger on vertocciput. Facial foveae long, curved toward ocelli at upper end, and ending about one-third of distance between eye and lateral ocellus. Interocellar distance 1.5, ocellocular distance 2.3, and ocelloccipital distance 1.5 times diameter of anterior ocellus. Mandible bidentate.

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Pronotal collor compressed in middle, lateral lobes rounded, without transverse carina or ridge. Mesoscutum slightly shiny, distinctly tessellate, punctures 0.01 mm diam., very irregularly spaced, 2-6 diameters apart. Scutellum flat, sculpture apparently about as on mesoscutum. Metanotum not visible (covered by adhesive). Mesepisternum similar to mesoscutum, most punctures about 0.01 mm diam., 1-4 diameters apart. Metepisternum dull, punctures about 0.01 mm diam., contiguous to subcontiguous. Side of propodeum dull, appearing granulose; lateral and oblique carinae absent; stigmatal area shallowly reticulate-punctate, becoming punctate on declivity, punctures about 0.02 mm diam., sparse. Basal area strongly sloping, without definite basal triangle.

Wings transparent light brownish, veins and stigma light brown; sparsely hairy; stigma not parallel-sided; SMI a little more than twice as long as SM2 on M.

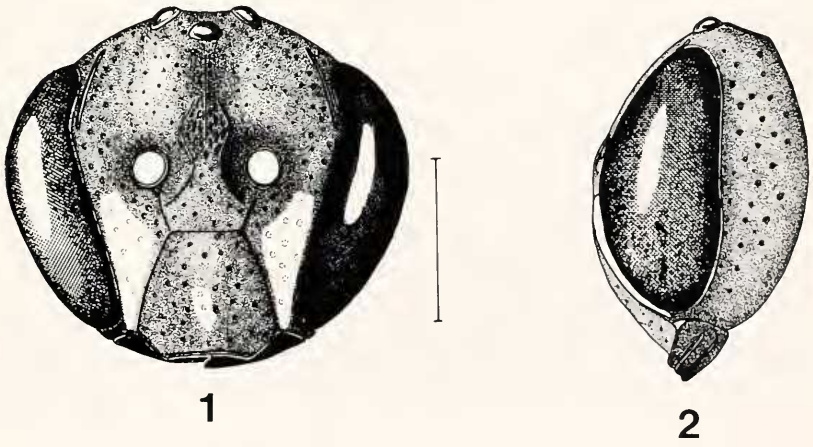
Metasomal tergum 1, in profile, evenly sloping, without definite anterior and dorsal faces, tessellate and moderately shiny, with scattered, obscure, minute punctures less than 0.01 mm diam.; tergum 2 similar but punctures less evident, depressed apical margin shinier than disc., basal gradulus weak.

Vestiture very sparse and short, mostly simple except appressed plumose hairs on side of propodeum; antennal area without plumose hairs; mesoscutum without erect hairs; metasomal terga 1 and 2 without apicolateral pubescent fasciae.

Black, the following yellow: elongate spot on clypeal midline; paraocular area, angled above toward eye margin, ending abruptly at level of antennal socket; interrupted band on pronotal collar; large spot on pronotal lobe; spot on tegula; outer face of protibia; basal two-fifths of metatibia.

DISCUSSION

The type is glued on its right side to a card and is in poor condition: the head is glued on; both flagella are missing; the right front leg and both middle and hind legs are missing; most of the posterior part of the mesosoma is



Hylaeus mustelus, holotype female. Fig. 1, frontal view of head. Fig. 2, lateral view of head. Scale line = 0.50 mm.

covered with adhesive; the wing tips are folded back.

The type is from "Carin Cheba, 900-1100 m, L. Fea, V-XII-88." This locality, at 24° 59'N 96° 52'E, is in a mountainous area about 105 km NW of Bhamo, Kachin State, Burma.

The specific name is Latin (weasel) and feminine in gender in its original combination; it presumably should be treated as a noun in apposition, hence is unchanged.

The few Hylaeinae described from tropical Asia are very poorly studied; most species have not been recognized since their original descriptions. Consequently, it is impossible to comment on the relationships of this species. In the key to Australian subgenera of *Hylaeus* by Michener (1965), *H. mustela* seems nearest to *Prosopisteron* Cockerell, 1906. This large subgenus, with many Australian species is also represented in the Chatham Islands, New Zealand, New Guinea, and the Tuamotu Islands. As Michener noted, *Prosopisteron* probably is not a natural group since it includes species with greatly differing hidden metamosal sterna in the males. *Hylaeus mustela* differs from most, if not all, species of *Prosopisteron* in the strongly sloping basal area of the propodeum, though this may not be significant when more species are examined. This species shows no obvious affinities with any of the Sri Lankin or south Indian species that I dealt with in 1980.

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